

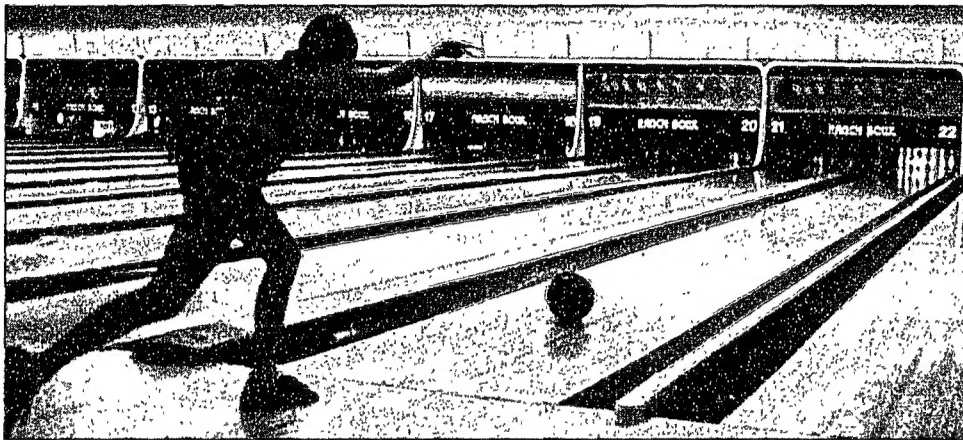
Bye-bye Ranch Bowl: A favorite local music venue closes its doors

SARAH LEGG
FEATURES EDITOR

"The Ranch Bowl will be wrapping up operations and closing its doors this May," stated Ranch Bowl President Mike Brannan on the venue's Web site. "Closing details will be released as known ..."

That's right, it's true: the Ranch Bowl is officially closing down. Rumors have circulated in past few years about the Ranch Bowl closing, but this time, the rumor is true.

For many years, the Ranch Bowl has hosted numerous bands including The Melvins, Green Day and Reel Big Fish. Patrons enjoyed the bowling alleys and bars inside and the sand



Michelle Duncan bowls at the Ranch Bowl Sunday afternoon during her first visit to the facility.



Michelle Bishop

The Ranch Bowl is slated to close later this year.

volleyball courts outside. While some may have seen the Ranch Bowl as not the cleanest place ever, many will remember the bowl as a great place to hang out.

"The Ranch Bowl has been a part of my life growing up in Omaha," said Dave Stites, a UNO junior. "I've seen Goldfinger, Veruca Salt—they were awesome. There were just so many good shows there. All the local bands were there, that's going to really suck. That place has been a part of Omaha

forever."

Retail super-giant Wal-Mart has bought the property, but what's next for the 72nd Street location? There hasn't been official word as to what will happen with the

considering a new venue, but the actual location and name of this project have not been announced.

According to an Omaha World-Herald article "Ranch Bowl president considers

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Belck advocates more housing for UNO students

CRYSTAL R. REID
NEWS EDITOR

More housing was on Chancellor Nancy Belck's agenda at the Board of Regents meeting Friday.

According to UNO President/Regent Elizabeth Kraemer, Belck expressed the need for more dorm space. Currently, there are 1,200 spaces for on-campus students and Belck feels that UNO should have 1,200 more.

Belck said that UNO is losing students to out-of-state universities and that more housing would help keep them here. Other regents felt that more housing for UNO would mean less students for the other NU campuses.

"If there's a need, I think we should offer the option," Kraemer said.

Regent Kurt Schroeder felt that more dorms would bring UNO away from its rural university, rural campus.

Kraemer said many major metropolitan universities house 18-20 percent of their students. Currently, UNO only has the capacity to house 8 percent of its population.

Kraemer pointed out that currently UNO's housing is focused on athletes,

See HOUSING: Page 2

Stolen purses lead to campus-wide hunt for suspect, turns up nothing

CRYSTAL R. REID
NEWS EDITOR

Several purses were stolen from an office in the Fine Arts Gallery Thursday night, at approximately 8 p.m., according to Paul Kosel, assistant manager of campus security and traffic.

According to Kosel, the office was unlocked and open. The gallery is normally open to the public.

One of the victims described a man that was near the office as a potential suspect. She could only describe a young white male with a ponytail, according to Kosel.



Michelle Bishop

While the Student Government Committee held its meeting Thursday evening, the suspect may have entered the Student Government office.

Security officers went searching campus for a suspect Thursday night, checking the Criss Library, the Fine Arts building and walking through the engineering building and the Pep Bowl.

At approximately 9:15 p.m., a man fitting that description was seen in the Student Government office, according to student Alex Williams. Williams holds the legislative/public relations office of Student Government.

Williams was in a committee meeting with other student senators outside of their office, when a man walked into the office and began looking around. One of the

See SUSPECT HUNT: Page 2

Demonstration sparks controversy



Caelan Miller

Fundamentalist Christian Mark Morin speaks out against homosexuality Thursday in front of the Milo Bail Student Center. Many students did not agree with Morin's views, including one individual who erased part of Morin's sign. Several students stopped to converse with Morin while others shouted their opinions from the MBSC balcony.

Omaha Weather



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Thunderstorms
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Chance of
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Thursday
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News Briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY CRYSTAL R. REID

UNO Telecommunications to host wireless information sessions today

UNO Telecommunications will host campus visits with two of the Omaha area wireless vendors, US Cellular and Verizon.

Representatives will be available to answer questions and discuss any interest faculty and staff may have about their respective offerings. The vendors will be available in the Eppley Administration Building conference room 117. US Cellular will meet today at 1 p.m. and Verizon will be available tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Phi Beta Sigma Malcolm X Birthplace clean-up postponed

Phi Beta Sigma intended to host a clean-up of Malcolm X's birthplace on

Saturday. The clean-up was postponed due to rain.

Youth Auxillary Group, Sigma Betas and Phi Beta Sigma's sister sorority, Zeta Phi Beta and members of the Malcolm X foundation and community members will join the fraternity next Saturday to begin the clean-up. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Americans for Informed Democracy to host town hall meeting

The Americans for Informed Democracy will host "The Future of U.S. and U.N. Relations" - its final town hall discussion of the semester - on April 29. The event is free and open to the public and will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Council Room.

A panel of distinguished speakers will begin the evening by providing opening

remarks and insights into current U.S. and United Nations relations, followed by an open question-and-answer session. Free food will be available.

AID is a non-partisan student organization that seeks to promote global awareness and international cooperation. It has the support of many organizations on campus, including the American Democracy Project, Amnesty International, the Asian American Cultural Society, the UNO College Democrats, the Goodrich Student Organization, the Pan African Student Organization, the UNO Republicans, the Goodrich Program, International Studies and Programs, the UNO Department of Political Science and the UNO Student Government.

For more information, contact Brian Wiese at 554-2072.

From HOUSING: Page 1

international students and Peter Kiewit Institute students. She feels that other programs that are unique to UNO could serve to help build the on-campus community while not taking students from other NU campuses.

The Board of Regents also passed a 9 percent increase in student fees for UNO. Because the increase was substantially higher than other campuses, the regents decided to vote on UNO's increase individually. The other campuses' increases were voted on as a whole.

Kraemer had to address the board's concerns about the high percentage increase in fees.

"During Student Government Week, I got the chance to ask a lot of students 'how do you feel about this?' Basically, it comes down to an increase in student services."

"We're asking for the increase just to keep the bar where it's at," Kraemer said.

This increase is in Fund B, the fund that deals with Milo Bail Student Center operations, student health services, men's and women's athletics, music groups, student center bond, student leadership organizations and the intercampus shuttle service. Because there had been no increase for four years prior to last year's increase, this year's increase is covering the necessities for maintaining the status quo.

An amendment to a previous resolution for the renovation of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service was approved, according to Kraemer. The amendment allows UNO put an addition onto the existing building at a cost of \$4.4 million, according to the Omaha World-Herald. UNO will seek private donations for the cost of the expansion.

From SUSPECT HUNT: Page 1

students in the committee meeting mentioned that campus security had been looking for a suspect that met the man's description.

"It was just weird that he walked straight into our office," Williams said. "None of us knew who he was."

According to Williams, Sheena Kennedy approached the man and attempted to talk to him. When he

wouldn't answer any other questions, the students called campus security.

Campus Security officers approached the man, but decided after speaking with him that he was not their suspect.

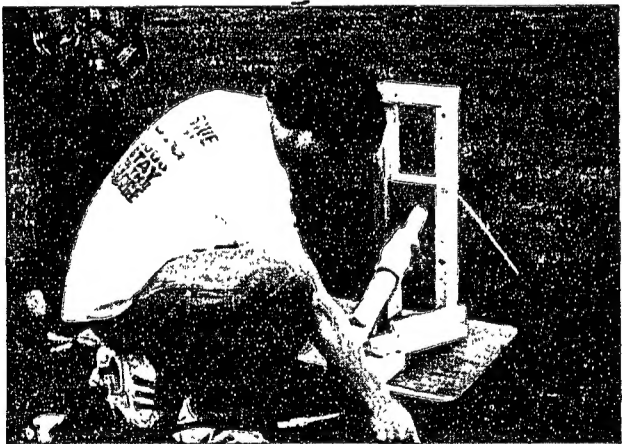
"He probably didn't fit the description close enough," Kosel said.

From RANCH BOWL: Page 1

downtown location," Brannan is considering buying the former Joy nightclub, located at 1516 Jones St. as a possible new location. As the article states, Brannan would want to open up to more styles of music than just the rock, punk, hardcore genre the Ranch Bowl usually caters to.

Time will tell what will become of the Omaha music scene after the Ranch Bowl's closing, but one thing is for sure: the Ranch Bowl will surely be missed.

Spud gun fun



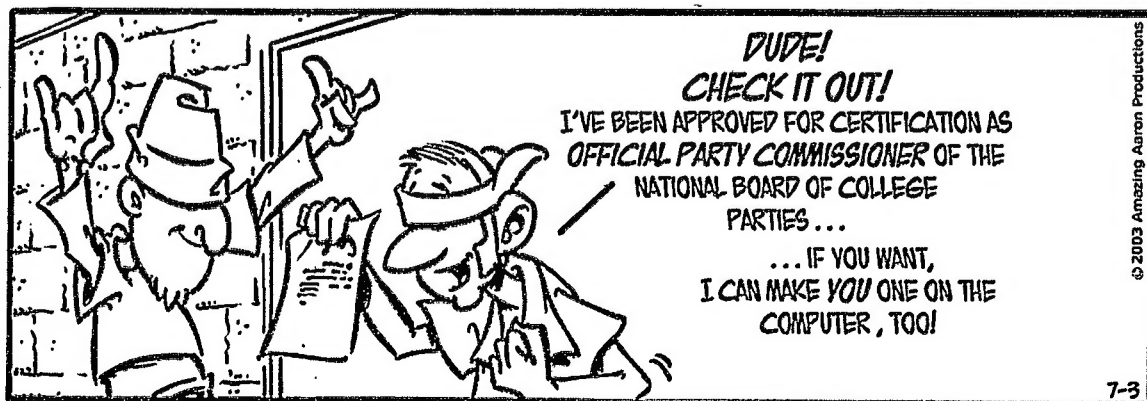
Last Monday Dr. Glen Yuill's engineering class launched potatoes with their hand made potato gun launchers. The projectiles were pressurized with an air compressor and then fired. This was a class assignment and was worth 25 points.

Anji Sada



2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Editor-In-Chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at The Gateway's office, Milo Bail Student Center Room 115.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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Victims of Oklahoma City bombing struggle to get along 10 years later

HOWARD WITT
(KRT)

OKLAHOMA CITY - What is the value of an American life claimed by terrorists? The answer, it turns out, depends on where and when you die.

Congress gave the families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks generous federal compensation payments. Most ended up millionaires.

Congress gave the families of victims of the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing a two-year reprieve on their federal income taxes. Some ended up losing their homes.

The families of victims of future terrorist attacks may get nothing at all.

For all the nation's focus on homeland security and the probability that the United States could someday be struck again by terrorists, the vexing question of what would happen afterward - whom the government should try to make whole - remains unasked.

And the lesson of Oklahoma City remains unlearned.

"Everybody thought that all the people from the bombing were taken care of," said Tim Hearn, who quit a promising college basketball career to return home and care for his four younger siblings after his mother was killed in the bombing. "That's how the media made it look. But it wasn't nothing like that. We're living day by day."

The site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood was long ago covered over by a striking memorial. A modernistic -and blast-resistant- new federal building stands defiantly across the way. The scarred downtown has been sleekly remade.

But 10 years after the Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people and injured 842 others, the shock waves are still radiating outward.

Despite more than \$40 million in donations that streamed into Oklahoma City in the days after the bombing to help the victims, more than 60 families of modest means were thrown into such poverty as a result of deaths or injuries that they must still rely on charities to meet their basic needs. Another 70 victims are still receiving psychiatric care.

Theirs are not the stories most likely to be heard this week as the nation momentarily returns its attention to this heartland city in solemn commemoration of the bombing. Instead, the ceremonies at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, titled a National Week of Hope, will focus on "stories of life moving forward."

It turns out, though, that while the Sept. 11 attacks were vastly more devastating in both human and economic terms, the Oklahoma City bombing was a more intimate crime. Officials here estimate that more than one-third of the 1 million people in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area knew someone who was killed or injured in the bombing.

The Oklahoma City attack also struck a more vulnerable population. While the World Trade Center towers in New York were gleaming icons of American prosperity occupied largely by office workers, executives and stockbrokers, the Murrah Federal Building was a dowdier destination, a place where workaday government employees served working-class constituents.

Yet in a state buffeted throughout its history by oil booms and economic busts and Dust Bowl droughts and killer tornadoes, deep religious faith and unblinking middle American values seem to have guided many Oklahoma City bombing victims to a quiet acceptance of their fates.

How else to explain the equanimity of a man like Hearn, 37, whose life was upended by the death of his mother, Castine Deveroux, 49, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"I think the reason why we went through the situation is to get close to God," he said. "We had a lot of evil in our life. The devil was in this house a lot of times. But we always found something positive out of everything."

Concerned about what would happen to his siblings, Hearn gave up his basketball scholarship at the University of New Mexico to move back home to raise them.

When the bills became overwhelming, Hearn sought help from one of the principal charities designated to help bombing victims, the Oklahoma City chapter of the American Red Cross, which assisted with some mortgage payments.

Hearn has accomplished his main goal - keeping his family together. But he's not sure how much longer he can provide for everyone. He believes, like many here, that Congress should compensate the Oklahoma City families just as it did the Sept. 11 families.

"I felt like my mom worked for the government and she died for the government and they should have stepped in and helped her kids," he said.

It is a faint hope.

In the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress swiftly approved a \$7 billion compensation package for the victims, whose families received an average of \$2.1 million each. But every time the issue of compensation for other terrorism victims has been raised since then, lawmakers have ducked.

In 2002 and 2003, Congress declined to reopen the question of compensating victims of past terrorist attacks such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Lawmakers have refused to provide any budget funding for a terror victims' compensation fund that Congress itself voted to establish.

A Senate committee conducted one

of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and a collective national desire to respond were among the principal motives cited by lawmakers as they sped the victim compensation package through Congress.

"Vengeful philanthropy" is the description used by Kenneth Feinberg, the special master of the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, to describe the compensation package.

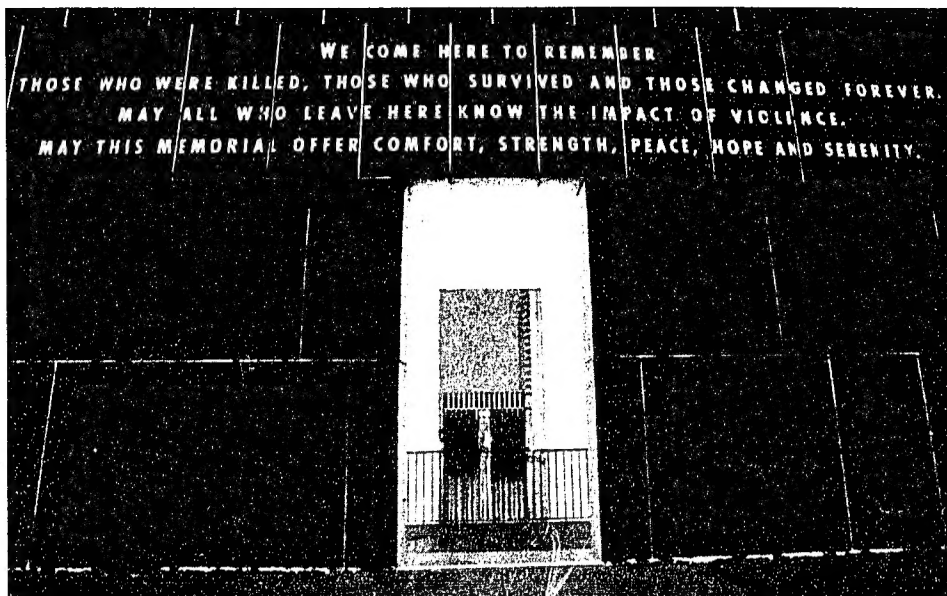
"I completely agree with the victims in Oklahoma City, or the USS Cole, or the Kenya bombing: 'Why not us?'" Feinberg said. "If you're looking at the victims, I don't know why not you. If you're looking at the

impact of the tragedy on the American psyche, I think 9/11 stands in a very unique category with Pearl Harbor, the American Civil War and the assassination of President Kennedy."

There was also an urgent economic imperative: The nation's troubled airline industry faced collapse under the potential weight of thousands of Sept. 11 lawsuits. Congress averted that crisis by offering victims generous compensation in exchange for their surrendering the right to sue the airlines.

Some \$18 million of the charitable funds donated to Oklahoma City victims remain, including enough money to fulfill a promise to provide a college education for each of the 219 children who lost one or both parents in the bombing.

Most of the rest was distributed directly to bombing victims like the Hearn family, whose cases were assessed by a committee of charities that weighed each individual request for help.



Cheryl Diaz Meyer (KRT)

The Oklahoma City National Memorial commemorates the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. (nrxw) 2005 (Diversity)

hearing to examine a Bush administration proposal to set a standard compensation award for future victims of terrorism. Then it promptly dropped the matter.

The lingering equity questions have embittered many Oklahoma City families, who wonder why Congress left them to rely on charities or struggle with insurance claims.

"You don't count," is how Randy Ledger, an Oklahoma City survivor, says he and other victims of the attack interpreted the snub from Congress. "You're just a bunch of redneck hicks down in Oklahoma."

Ledger, 48, a custodian in the Murrah building, suffered multiple skull fractures, brain damage and hearing loss, and has two chunks of glass embedded so near his spine that surgeons are reluctant to operate. Other shards periodically still work their way out through his skin.

After 10 years, he is still battling the federal Department of Labor over a worker's compensation claim.

The Oklahoma City bombing was no Sept. 11, of course. The singular horror

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FEATURES

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Page 4

Sarah Legg | Features Editor

Web site provides outlet for artists, fans alike

SARA DRUMMOND
STAFF WRITER

Community-based Web sites abound on the Internet. But one art community site outshines the rest — www.deviantart.com.

DeviantART was launched in 2000 by Scott Jarkoff, Angelo Sotira and Matt Stephens. The three set out to create an online community for artists, both seasoned and aspiring.

The site has something for everyone, from the aspiring poet to the seasoned photographer. Anyone can browse through the artwork on the Web site, but only registered users, a.k.a. deviants, are truly a part of the community.

Each deviant who registers has an abundance of resources at his or her fingertips, and chooses a screen name and has a personal user page.

A deviant's user page is the most important part of DeviantART. This is where a user can display featured pieces of artwork, and link to the 10 most-recent deviations. Links to the deviant's gallery, where all the work is kept and journals are also on this page.

Getting involved in the community is not hard. Forums are available to discuss everything from art to life's problems. Two forms of chat are available. Deviants can send each other private notes, leave

comments on each other's user pages and comment on artwork.

DeviantART is user-friendly. Submitting a deviation is as simple as filling in a few text fields and uploading the file. The Web site posts the piece, creates the links and thumbnails, and keeps track of how many times the deviation has been viewed.

The site is open to a variety of artwork. The main submission categories include traditional art, digital art, photography, poetry, prose, flash and designs and interfaces. Each category is conveniently split into sub-categories, making it easy to find a specific kind of art.

Several different categories are available for personal use, though most work is copyrighted by its creator. Deviant-submitted wallpaper, skins and cell phone art can be downloaded. Deviant-made resources are also available, including tutorials, fonts and textures.

In addition to basic registration, DeviantART also offers a subscription. Subscriptions can be purchased in one, three or 12 month increments, for a small price.

Subscribers have a broader range of features available to them. DeviantART appears ad-free to subscribers. Subscribers also enjoy larger thumbnails, private forums, beta testing and Deviant mobile.

Deviant mobile is a new feature of DeviantART. Once a deviant registers for Deviant mobile a user is able to load wallpapers on cell phones with a simple click of the mouse. This service is available with most major cell phone carriers in the U.S., though it is expected to be available in Europe soon.

Artists can sell their

work through the DeviantART Shop, also known as Deviant Prints. For a one-time \$25 fee, deviants receive a lifetime prints account. Deviants set their own prices for their artwork, and they receive 50 percent of the profit above the base price, the cost of production. Artwork can be sold as magnets, mouse pads, mugs, coasters, puzzles, calendars, postcards and normal or panoramic prints.

Anyone can purchase artwork available on Deviant Prints. Customers may choose from several sizes and finishes, depending on what the artist has made available. Registered DeviantART users can add items to a wish list, which they can make public on their user page. This allows someone to purchase a print as a gift for a deviant and have it sent to them without knowing their shipping address.

The prints are high-quality and are printed as ordered. Despite this, what a customer receives is essentially a copy or picture of the deviation. This is ideal for photography and digital art, but not for some forms of traditional art. Because of the nature of DeviantART, a sculpture or painting deviation is really just a picture of the work. Thus, it is impossible to actually purchase a replica of a sculpture or painting seen on DeviantART.

Deviants sometimes organize DevMeets, where deviants from a certain state or region get together for a weekend and meet in person. This summer, DeviantART will hold its first official meet.

The 2005 DeviantART Summit will be held on June 17-18 in Santa Monica, Calif. A variety of classes and panels will be available. According to the summit's Web site, the emphasis is "to educate aspiring artists on how to break into the big time with their art." Registration is currently \$55 and includes admission to all events and a free T-shirt.

Going the distance

MICHAEL GRANBERRY
DALLAS (KRT)

Jennifer Blakley had been waiting for this moment for 22 years.

"I have butterflies, yes I do!" she said. "I do. This is my first time to be nervous. I haven't been nervous. I haven't been. You'd be surprised how calm I've been about it."

Jennifer was talking fast. Her husband was bemused. Because Matt Blakley knows that 22 years of expectations don't exactly mesh with "calm."

At any moment, Jennifer, 35, would come face to face with fate. Her pen pal of more than two decades a Danish woman she had never met or spoken to on the phone would land at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Hanne Magnussen, 36, would walk through the revolving door of Gate 30 at the Terminal B baggage claim area and take their friendship to a new level. She and Jennifer had thought about this moment since 1983, when Ronald Reagan was president and the Cold War was still, well, cold.

Hanne would bring with her a husband and two children and 22 years of shared memory. "I don't know what to say," Jennifer said to her husband.

"Well," Matt said, "why don't you just say ... 'Howdy?'"

Trying anything at that point to calm down his wife, to make her laugh, he reminded her of what their 7-year-old son had been saying all week: "When are our Danishes coming?"

A friendship blossoms

When Jennifer was 13, growing up in Pearland, Texas, a friend -who ceased to be a part of her life long ago- told her about a pen pal company. So, she dashed off a letter, asking for a female correspondent, "and six weeks later, I got a postcard in the mail with

See DISTANCE: Page 8

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Going under the knife not always the only way to improve your looks

Plastic surgery is the new black, or so it seems. In recent years the numbers of young people going under the knife has risen dramatically. And while I am not going to get into a discussion on why this is alarming, I am not going to lie about the fact that I have thought about it myself.

The phrase "plastic surgery" used to conjure up a Joan Rivers image in my head, scary to say the least. But my recent fascination with www.awfulplasticsurgery.com has fueled an obsession within me. Reality shows like "Extreme Makeover" and "Dr. 90210" have me logging mad hours of tube time. It seems I keep finding out that people I know have had this or that done. I know a girl who took out a loan to get a bigger chest. I know another girl who is trying to get insurance to pay for her rhinoplasty.

If, in our so called youth, we are already turning to such drastic measures, who's to say we won't be looking like members of the Jackson family by the time we are in our 40's and 50's? Let's embrace diversity and the fact that there is plenty of time to decide whether or not you need work done. What are we really trying to fix anyway? Many doctors are suggesting that the flaws we are trying to fix are actually internal.

Luckily for those of us that either do not want to get cut ... at least not yet, are strapped for the cash that surgery requires or feel like they are perfect just the way that they are, there are a plethora

Real Fashion



Alex May

of beauty products that are just short of miraculous. I strongly suggest checking out www.sephora.com and www.blissworld.com to find the latest and greatest fixer-uppers around. Here is a list of common body woes and non-invasive ways to fix them.

Deflated lips: Pump up the volume with a lip gloss that adds pout to your pout. Lip Venom by

DuWop is spicy and tingly and gives you that bee-stung look. Another great product is Modelco Wonderful Lip Plumper. A lot of makeup companies are making lip plumpers now, too, so check local makeup counters.

Under-developed cleavage: bronze shimmer can create the illusion of fullness, if you get my drift. Try Too-faced Peek-a-boo body bronzing powder. Bonus: It looks great on shoulders and décolletage, too.

Strong facial features: If you want to downplay your nose, or make eyes look bright, try a facial highlighter. When you apply it in the right spots it draws eyes away from the areas you see as problematic and makes your skin look like it's glowing from within. After you apply your foundation try using a liquid highlighting product on cheekbones and brow bones, like Lorac oil-free Luminizer or Benefit Moon Beam. Many drugstore-based beauty companies are making foundations with the light refracting

Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital celebrates first anniversary

SARAH LEGG
FEATURES EDITOR

On Friday, Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital celebrated its one-year anniversary of operation.

The hospital, which specializes in care of orthopedic patients, is a joint effort between the Nebraska Medical Center and more than 20 Omaha-area orthopedic surgeons. This 105,580 square-foot building has seen patients from Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri and Oklahoma.

"The fact that more than 6,000 people from across the region visited Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital in our first year illustrates the importance of specialized orthopedic care to them," stated Dr. Charles Burt, CEO and president of the hospital. "Because of our specialization, we believe we can provide the best possible care and experience for our patients. This translates into lower costs, lower complication rates and higher patient satisfaction."

Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital provides physical therapy, MRI testing and in and out patient surgeries. It offers treatment to patients both young and old ranging in operations from total joint

replacements, joint reconstruction and spine surgery, among others. The range of doctors provides services for the shoulder, elbow, hand, wrist, hip, knee, foot, ankle and spine.

The hospital has been an innovator in Nebraska due to their use of a total paperless system. All of the patients' information is kept electronically and medical records are available for access by any surgeon anywhere. It also uses an electronic medication order entry system to ensure proper drugs and dosage.

Located at 2808 S. 143rd Plaza, the hospital has eight operating rooms that can be expanded to 14, 20 pre-operative and recovery rooms, 10 recovery beds and room service. The hospital takes pride in its environment with the building's unique architecture and warm, rich interior colors. It also has a 16-foot waterfall in the building along with indirect hall and room lighting and 24 private patient rooms decorated in contemporary design. The building also has Internet access. All of the equipment is stored out of sight when not in use, all streamlining the hospital and adding to its success thus far.



Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital



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From *DISTANCE*: Page 6

Hanne's address," she said. "So, I wrote her."

Soon, the letters were flying back and forth, at least once a month, a pace the two have maintained for two decades plus. At one point, they exchanged audiotapes, and once, Jennifer sent Hanne a videocassette. (She had to rent special equipment just to watch it.) So each had heard the other's voice, despite never having shared a live conversation.

In the beginning, they shared only the normal girl stuff; favorite foods, favorite colors, favorite music (Duran Duran). Most of all, they exchanged thoughts and feelings and concluded that they were eerily similar, despite being separated by continents and cultures.

"We really grew up with each other," Jennifer said. "We could tell each other secrets! After all, who would she tell in Denmark?"

As the girls became young women, dating became topic No. 1. Around the same time, both fell in love—with quiet men, valued as much for being calm as compassionate. Their lives took a parallel path yet again when the women got pregnant.

"Our daughters are the same age, 11," Jennifer said. "And her other daughter is almost the same age as my second son. So we talked pregnancy a lot."

Jennifer graduated from Texas A&M University and became the loyal wife of an active-duty officer of the U.S. Marine Corps. For nine years, they were hunkered down in such outposts as Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Hanne grew up in Hjoerring, Denmark, and now works for a computer company there. She and her family live 15 miles away, in the small seaport town of Hirtshals.

Waiting at the airport, as the baggage-claim moment drew near, Jennifer marveled at the fact that she and Hanne have managed to feel even closer, despite the demands of adulthood. Today, the Blakleys have three

children; Allison, 11, Kyle, 7, and Zachary, 5, to the Magnussens' two daughters Lisa, 11, and Emilie, 6.

At any moment, "the Danishes" would plant their feet on Texas soil.

Anticipation builds

A few hours before leaving for America, Hanne sat at home in Hirtshals, nervous as a cat. But, make no mistake, it was a "good" nervous.

"It's amazing," she said by telephone. "I've known her longer than I've known my husband. We go so way back. I can't even remember our first letters. I remember she sent me gum, and it was so different from our gum. We wrote a lot about movies and food. After we had children, we got closer, I think. We talked about more family stuff. Feelings."

"We could talk about marriage and when we felt happy, when we felt ... upset. We could argue with our husbands and talk about that. We talked about everything; religion and terrorism. When the World Trade Center was hit, I wrote her right away."

E-mail, of course, has elevated the correspondence to a new dimension, though e-mail, both women say, is a mixed blessing. When cyberspace came into vogue, the letter-writing stopped. Because of e-mail, Hanne was able to notify Jennifer within hours that her 11-year-old daughter had been hit by a car while riding her bike. And Jennifer could bare her soul on a daily basis in 2003, when her husband was called up by his Reserve unit and deployed for most of the year in California.

"I'm nervous she will be disappointed with me," Hanne said. "And I'm nervous about a lot of other things. Will we get along? Will our kids get along? I know her so well, and yet we've never met. We've never even talked on the phone."

Despite being tempted, Hanne refused to call Jennifer on her last birthday. She even

refused to call the day before departure, to provide updated flight details.

"I don't care if it's a big airport," she said. "We'll just have to walk around until we find each other. We can't speak until we actually see each other! I want nothing to spoil this."

Worth the wait

Showtime.

For Jennifer, "the moment" had arrived. Peering beyond the revolving door, she saw a 22-year relationship walking right at her. "There they are!" she screamed. "Oh, my gosh! Oh, my gosh! She sees me, too!"

And then came the waves, cascading gales of girlish laughter, followed by an endless hug. It was a warm embrace between women who have shared so much adolescent angst, courtships ending in marriage, the rigors of childbearing, the sorrow of wars and terrorism.

"Oh, my gosh!" Jennifer said. "How are you? Oh, my God, oh, my God! How are you? I don't believe it. I don't believe it."

"This is surreal!" Hanne said, her arms still clinging to Jennifer.

"Hey, that's my word!" Jennifer said. "I can't believe you're here. Just look at me. I'm shaking."

Hanne's husband, Jon Magnussen, said his wife had grown eerily quiet as the moment drew near.

"Expectations," he said with a smile.

Soon, the Magnussens and Blakleys would be heading north, into the Texas night, gearing up for a fortnight in which

nine people would share the same house. It would be two weeks of baseball and barbecue, Easter egg hunts and even a bit of Duran Duran.

"I was worried, but not any more," Hanne said with a smile as big as Texas. "She's absolutely wonderful. She and her family are everything I dreamed they would be." To the naysayers: Ha.

OK, so that was Saturday night, March 19. How was it going nearly two weeks later?

Never better, Jennifer said. Night after night, she marveled at the fact that her pen pal of 22 years was sitting across from her at the evening table. She also feels vindicated, for more than one friend had waxed skeptical about the prospects of the meeting she and Hanne had prayed for since 1983.

"I think we knew what to expect more than anybody else," Jennifer said. "Everybody else kept telling us we didn't know what to expect. But we were right."

"We were right," said Hanne, who has discovered in person that she and her pen pal have more in common than she ever thought they would. "We're alike. We think alike about a lot of stuff. And we're kind of the bossy types. We like to control people. We like to organize stuff."

As the women looked at each other and laughed, Jennifer shook her head. She still can't believe all the naysayers, the ones who kept saying she ran the risk of feeling disappointed after meeting her pen pal in person.

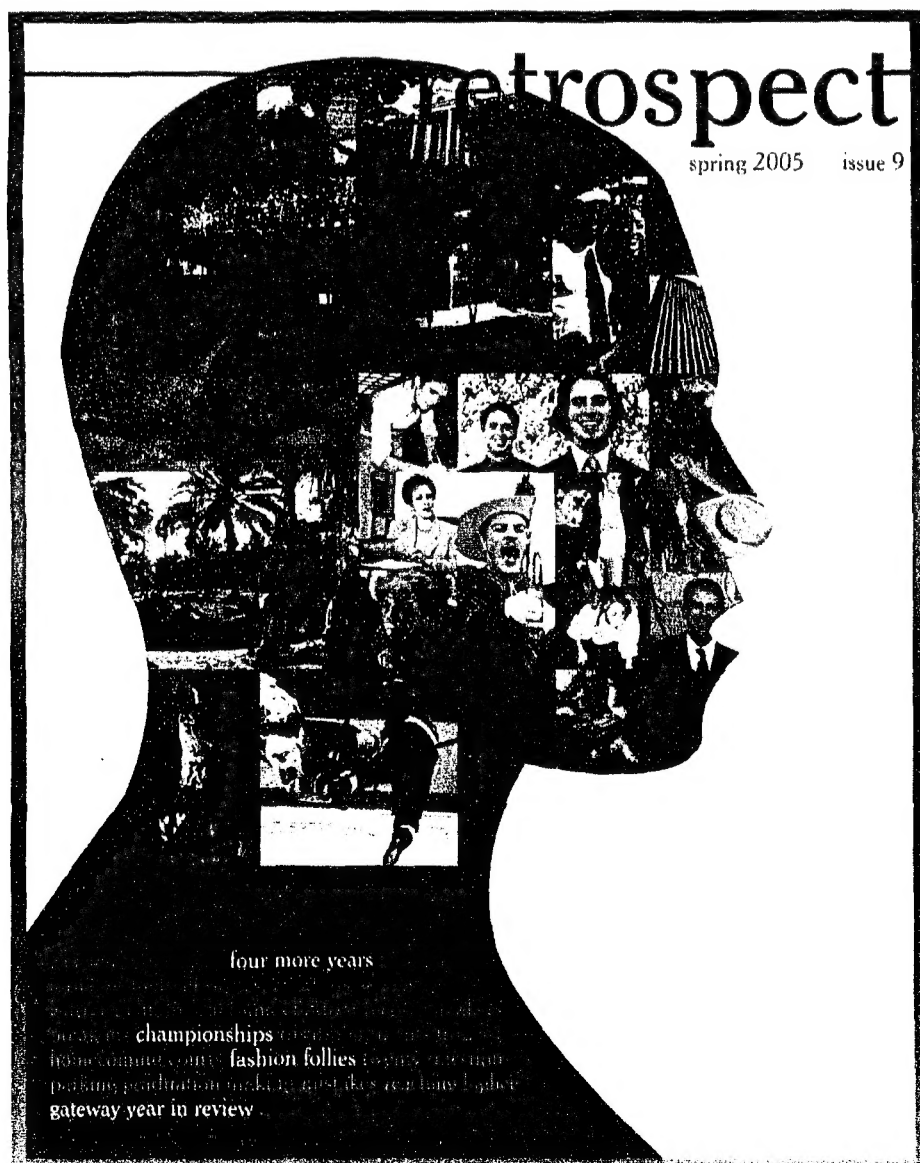
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Monday, April 25!

Happening this week

SARAH LEGG
FEATURES EDITOR

Tuesday, April 19

Chris Jones' Extreme Acoustic Jam at the Bear Trap on 19th and Harney streets. Cover is free and the show starts at 9 p.m. Must be 21 or older.

Wednesday, April 20

The Locust brings its crazy hardcore noise back to Sokol. The opening act is Omaha's original The Show is the Rainbow. This project, by Darren Keen, is hilarious and definitely provides great, cheap entertainment. Opening is Luminoso Lashkar. Show starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$8.



Thursday, April 21

Omaha Community Playhouse features "The Nerd". This comedic play about an architect visited by a man who saved him during the Vietnam War has

received rave reviews in the *Omaha World-Herald*. The production starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs all week. Ticket info can be found at 553-0800 or www.omahaplayhouse.com.

Friday, April 22

Underground hip-hop at Sokol is sure to impress with the return of Atmosphere. Check it out, it's good to go to a concert different from the usual hardcore or punk shows. Opening for Atmosphere is Grayskul and P.O.S. Show starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$15.



Saturday, April 23

Independent film *The American Belly Dancer* makes its debut in Omaha at the Omaha Healing Arts Center. This documentary is the first one made about belly dancing in the United States. The film touches on male and female relations, East and West relations since 9/11 and controversy surrounding the first professional belly dance troupe, The

Belly Dance Superstars and Desert Roses. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. and is \$8.

Sunday, April 24

The Jazzwholes play the Goofy Foot Lodge on 1012 S. 10th St. Each Sunday the band plays at 9 p.m. Cover is \$3. Must be 21 or older.

Monday, April 25

Ladies, keep your pants on, Maroon 5 is playing Pershing Center in Lincoln as part of the Honda Civic Tour. Opening will be the Thrills. Tickets are a little steep at \$35 day of

show, but seeing Adam Levine live and in-person might be worth the cash. Show starts at 7 p.m. Pershing is located in Lincoln at 226 Centennial Mall South, downtown.



Straight-edged DJ coming to Omaha

Garnering an ascribed "holistic" type of techno with more than 150 music releases in his cart, according to his Web site www.djesp.com, international DJ Woody McBride will make his way to Omaha on April 29. McBride will spin at Bar 415 (415 S. 13th St.) with an opening set by Dr. Zhivago.

From Dusseldorf to Munster and Austria to France and America, McBride has toured all over Europe, Asia, South and North America bringing his "engaging, inspirational music vision," according to his site.

While McBride is among an international caliber of DJs, it's his lifestyle that sets him apart from the rest. No sex or drugs (but maybe a bit of rock and roll) for McBride. Being an advocate of the straight-edged lifestyle, McBride has dedicated himself to purging the art and music world of the ever-present addictions of drugs and destructive lifestyles.

"Nothing against warehouse and outdoor events - and the mystique of them is huge ... but those days are gone - kids couldn't behave themselves and our sound systems could be heard for ten miles," McBride said in his biography. "So we now take our massive to the arena, the club and the sanctioned underground and enjoy the music in a safe, legal environment that everyone can enjoy."

With a surging amount of creativity, McBride is always pushing the boundaries of culture and your eardrums. His renowned "Wall of Bass" stands 20 feet high and 150 wide, pumping out 1,000,000 watts of pulsating sound. Taking this sound system to selected parties, you can see why this Minneapolis resident has gained much acclaim.

On the promotion side, McBride has thrown a numerous amount of parties. His most noteworthy includes "Turned On 2,"

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

held in 2000, which had an attendance of more than 7,000 people. With Q-Bert, Sandra Collins, Derrick Carter, Frankie Bones and Christopher Lawrence on the roster, "Turned On 2" was "the first truly outspoken 'drug free rave event' in US history," according to his Web site.

When McBride isn't performing in DJ booths, you can find his influence in your local record store. With more than a 150 releases and remixes, McBride has left a deep impact in the world of dance music.

If you happen to miss his Friday night appearance, you can always check him out on April 30 in Kansas City, performing at The 411 located at 411 Valentine. At this event, you will also be able to see the dons of drum and bass, Pish Posh, DJ Assault, J Break and Evol Intent among a monster line up.


On the news front of forthcoming regional events, on April 30, Iowa City will be splurged when the Chicago house treat, Derrick Carter, throws down at the "Perversions of Science." Taking place at Gabes on 330 East Washington St., \$15 will get you live DJ entertainment from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Local DJs The Goat, Mishuggah, DJ Sonar and Schematik will also contribute to the lineup.

On May 21 in Lawrence, Kan., you can witness Donald Glaude in all his performance glory. With a charismatic stage presence, Glaude is not one of those DJs that just keeps his head bowed to his records. He will drop the volume, scream at the crowd, scratch with his hands behind his back and play all sorts of slammin' tracks to get the crowd going. Drum and bass icon, I Live, will also be headlining. This is an all-ages event at Granada Theater on 1020 Massachusetts.

For more information on these events, visit www.technomaha.com.



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Stay away from Amityville; should have made *Van Wilder 2* instead

REVIEW BY ANDREW CUMBEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

We go to horror movies to be scared. We enjoy that thrill. We like getting home and being too afraid to sleep, turning on Conan until the fear goes away. The new *The Amityville Horror* remake is not a movie that will give you that thrill.

The story is simple. A family moves into a house that is supposedly haunted and possessed. It drives people to insanity and forces them to kill the rest of the people living there.

This remake makes all of the mistakes of past horror movie tripe. The only attempt at even trying to be scary is in the ad campaign. "Based on a true story." "Inspired by true events." Shut up. Does this look like a true story? How many possessed houses

have you been to that made you kill your siblings? Even if you believe in ghosts and the paranormal, you'll get to the end of the movie and understand that this is just so far-fetched that it could not be true. All the filmmakers know about the true story is that some people lived in a house where murders were committed and then they left a month later. There's your true story.

The reason they have to do this true-story crap is because people are harder to scare now and filmmakers are lazy. Basically, instead of inventing new ways to scare, they imbed it in your mind that this really happened. It's the horror equivalent of PETA showing bunnies being slaughtered to get you to support animal protection.

This film also, for no apparent reason, throws in one of those crappy mystery side stories. It's like *The Ring* and all the new

age horror movies. I'm here to see a freaking house that kills people, what do I care why the house got haunted? Kill kill kill. That's all I want. This stupid part of the movie takes too much time and just doesn't fit in.

It's also predictable. They show the original family in the opening sequence. We know right away that the house gets people to kill other people. We still have

to wait until the last 10 minutes before it even gets to that part. The whole movie is rendered useless because of that.

While there are many, many problems with *The Amityville Horror*, there are still a few great things about it. The story is horrible, but it isn't nearly as bad as it could have been thanks to Andrew Douglas' direction. This guy is a brand new director, but his film looks and feels incredibly professional. The only problem with it is that we don't get a real mood, or atmosphere, which would have really be beneficial in bringing the

written-by-mentally-challenged-children script to the screen.

Something must be said about Ryan Reynolds (*Van Wilder*), too. This guy can actually act, and he is really good in his role as "crazy Jack Nicholson from *The Shining*."

At the end of the day, the film is still entertaining. It isn't worth the ticket price, but you will like it until you leave and realize how painfully stupid and non-scary it is.

Grade: C-




Too late, you're typecast: Ryan Reynolds stars as George Lutz in *The Amityville Horror*, unfortunately playing in a theater near you.

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Masek and Denney spark offense in annual spring game

CHRIS HARRINGTON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It was a great day for football as the Mavericks wrapped up the remainder of their spring practices at Caniglia Field on Saturday, without rain as the forecast had predicted.

UNO's offense shone as bright as the sunny day racking up 419 yards and four touchdowns on the day. Senior quarterback Brian Masek threw for 167 yards and two touchdowns and senior wide receiver Chris Denney caught six passes for 80 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"Our offense is clicking," Denney said. "We've got 10 guys back for the most part, so we don't have to go through the learning phase that teams usually go through during spring ball."

On the Mavericks' initial drive, Masek commanded the offense going 6-for-6 as it marched down the field and scored on a Jamar Day two-yard run. Masek said he felt he was in a rhythm while launching the ball down field.

"We had a lot of good, solid, high-percentage throws in there on our first drive, and I felt comfortable in the backfield," Masek said. "It is encouraging to see some of the good things we did today."

Day, who hurt his ankle during the touchdown run, was sidelined for the remainder of the game. It turns out that Day's ankle injury was not serious. Offensive Coordinator Lance Leipold knew what Day was capable of doing so he decided to give the other young backs reps.

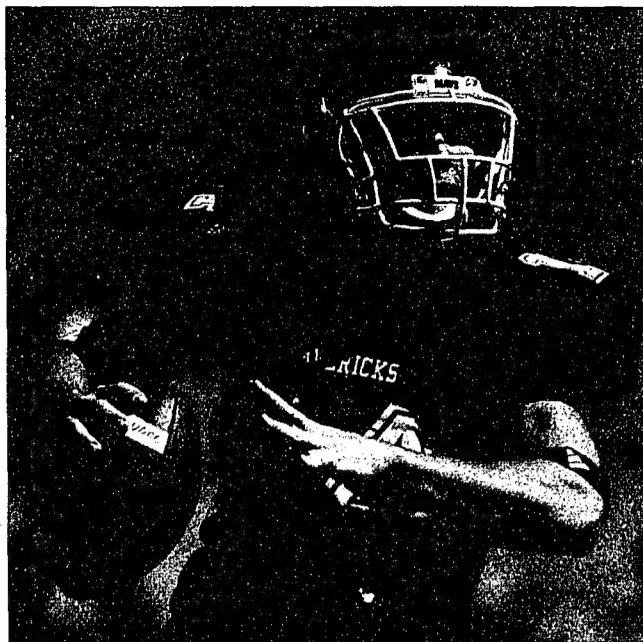
"We had planned to play him to a limit on carries anyway, but he just took a shot to the ankle, which was only a bruise," Leipold said. "He could have went back in the second half and played, but we decided to let the other guys go."

Junior fullback Tad Kersting led all rushers with 52 yards on nine attempts and a touchdown. Sophomore running back Nate Wurth, who received the Leo E. Peary Award for UNO's most improved running back, finished with 193 total yards. Wurth had 167 yards on kickoff returns, averaging 33.4 yards on five returns with a long return of 74 yards.

"Nate has made great strides this spring," Leipold said. "He really had a nice spring and stepped up and showed that he can help us next year."

The other players who received the Leo E. Peary Awards at halftime were defensive back Reed Taylor, linebacker Jacob Skow, defensive lineman Rob Lewis and offensive lineman Jakob Sjuts.

Head Coach Pat Behrns admitted that there were not many things he was disappointed about with his team.



Chris Machian

Quarterback Brian Masek looks downfield for an open target.

However, Behrns did state that there is plenty room for improvement, especially on special teams. Junior place kicker Andy Severson missed all three field goal attempts during the spring game.

"I wasn't happy with our special teams, but that's one of the areas that suffers a little bit in the spring, because you don't have your best guys working there, and you don't have your best snapper available at the time," Behrns said.

Behrns emphasized that there was a certain amount of things that he and his coaching staff wanted to look at during

the spring and felt they accomplished the goals they set.

"Obviously we've got a long way to go before we play anybody, but I thought I saw some pretty good ingredients out there," Behrns said. "You look at our group of offensive linemen, and we've got three guys that we projected as starters who weren't even here today, so I think we're going to be OK when we get them all wrapped up."

The defense played well for the most part but struggled with tackling and giving up big plays to the offense. First-year Defensive Coordinator Brad McCaslin has established new techniques and schemes for his defense, and hopes his team will get better later on down the road.

"The No. 1 offense came out and did a good job against our No. 2 defense, and they had a couple positive plays," McCaslin said. "We missed some tackles when we weren't settled down, and I was disappointed with the way we tried to start the game."

The Maverick defense gave up 265 passing yards and 154 rushing yards. They created only one turnover with an interception by Kenny Onatolu.

"We do try to turn the ball over, but we didn't get much of that done today like I thought we would," McCaslin said. "We do a lot of drills where we have to tackle first, and if we get an opportunity we'll try to strip the ball out with our gang-tackling mentality."

The Mavericks open up the 2005 season at Nebraska-Kearney on Aug. 27, and their first home game will be against Northwest Missouri State on Sept. 3.

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Mavericks drop two on opening day of NW Missouri tournament

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO softball team traveled to Maryville, Mo. to play in the Northwest Missouri State tournament last weekend. On Saturday the Mavericks dropped both games as they faced No. 7 Emporia State and No. 15 Missouri Western.

In the first game UNO lost 5-2 to Emporia State. Both of the Mavericks runs came in the first inning off of a two-run bomb by Kelsey Warning. Emporia State answered in the bottom of the first, scoring two runs of its own. The game stayed tied 2-2 until the bottom of the fifth, when Morgan Viola hit a leadoff homer for Emporia State. Two batters later, Bree Beattie hit a two-run shot to make the score 5-2.

The Mavericks tried to rally in the top of the sixth, but ended up leaving two runners on base as Emporia State went on to win the game.

In the second game of the day the Mavericks took on Missouri Western for the third time in a week. The Mavs split a double header with the Griffins in UNO's home game on Wednesday.

In the third inning, Brianna Cautadella scored on a double by Sara Sortino. Then, Warning's bat came up strong once again hitting her second two run shot of the day. The Mavs rode the 3-1 lead into the bottom of the fifth, but then the Griffins came back

in a strong way. Missouri Western scored five runs on five hits, including a pair of two-run home runs, and a solo. The



Michelle Bishop

Jenny Pritchard releases a pitch during a game this season.

Mavericks were unable to recover from the shelling and took their second loss of the day, losing 6-3.

The Mavericks had three games on Sunday against Central Missouri State, Truman State, and Missouri-Rolla. Results were unavailable at time of press, and will be in the next issue.

UNO Women's Walk raises record amount

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

Walkers in Saturday's Diet Pepsi/UNO Women's Walk raised a projected \$328,000, the largest amount ever brought in by the event. Over the past 20 years, the Women's Walk has raised more than \$2.6 million. More than 1,000 women participated in the event, which raises money for scholarships given to UNO's female student-athletes.

The event is the main fundraiser for the women's athletic department's scholarships.

"I would like to thank all of these women for coming out today and supporting UNO women's athletics," Associate Athletic Director Deb Denbeck stated in a press release Saturday. "This was an unbelievable event for UNO's female student-athletes and I am so pleased at the record amount of money raised."

The event included incentives for participants such as a continental breakfast, massages and valuable prize drawings along with the walk itself.

The Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company has sponsored the fundraiser for the last 17 years. Pepsi donates \$25,000 annually to cover the overhead costs of the walk so that all the money raised can directly benefit UNO women's athletics.

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Trio of Mavericks sweep heptathlon at NCAA Division II Challenge

THOMAS LAMAY
STAFF WRITER

Senior Anastasia Kyvelidou and junior Fotuso Makinde each won events at the NCAA Division II Challenge, wrapping up Saturday at the Zola Witten Track on the campus of Emporia State University. UNO took fifth place overall at the meet.

Kyvelidou won the women's heptathlon with a score of 5,437. The transfer from Greece also gained an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships, May 26-28 in Abilene, Texas. Kyvelidou scored big in the seven-event competition, winning the 100-meter hurdles, long jump, javelin throw, and the 800-meter run.

Her score also shattered the school record of 4,657 points, set by former Maverick All-American Lindsay Hunter in 2001.

Kyvelidou was not the only Maverick on the winner's stand for the event. Junior Debbie Ackerly and senior Kalyn Byers placed second and third, respectively. The Iowa natives combined for a clean sweep of the competition with scores of 5,006 and 4,694 points. Ackerly

won the 200-meter dash and Byers took first place finish in the high jump portion of the heptathlon.

Makinde grabbed yet another title in the long jump competition. The defending indoor national champion and school record holder leapt 19 feet 10 1/4 inches for the win. Makinde breezed through the competition, jumping over a foot farther than her nearest competitor, Sara Wagner of Nebraska-Kearney.

Junior Kellie Ryan placed second in the 5000-meter run, in a time of 18 minutes 34 seconds. Redshirt freshman Kaylen Harris placed sixth, in a field of 12 athletes.

Several Mavs earned team points by placing in their events. Laverne Monger placed third in the 100-meter dash. Also scoring team points were Taira Baker, Ashley Freeman, Molly Miller Magda Orzylowski, and Jennifer Victor.

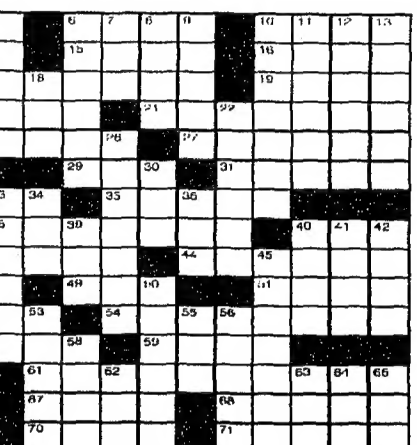
The 400-meter relay team placed third, behind Emporia State and Pittsburg State.

The Mavericks will next travel to Crete, Neb. for the Doane Relays. The meet will be held April 22-23 at the Lauritsen Track on the campus of Doane College.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cop's ID
6 Belgian border city
10 Complexion woe
14 Hunter of stars
15 Sailor's hello
16 Bank deal
17 Large sailing ship
19 Musical group
20 Coll. residence
21 Swiss canton
23 Homeless feline
27 Cyrus II's empire
28 Feathery scarves
29 Fond du ___, WI
31 Longhorn
32 University treasurer
35 Trunk
37 Annex
38 Sweeper's accessory
40 ___, Na Na
43 Wandering calf
44 Original copy
46 Up and about
49 AMA members
51 Poi source
52 Brings up
54 Smiled coyly
57 Fixed attitude
59 Short-tailed, diving bird
60 Pond growth
61 Limited in perspective
66 Knish store
67 Melody
68 Funeral song
69 Yemeni port
70 Crystal gazer
71 Icy rain

DOWN
1 Ship's forward section
2 Jackie's second
3 Noisy clamor
4 Isle of Minerva
5 Relish
6 Man or mandrill, o.g.
7 Resistance unit
8 Coward of note
9 Maple product
10 Writer Moravia
11 Lacking refinement
12 Nursemaid
13 Make beloved
18 Circle segment
22 Big name in small planes
23 Swedish pop group
24 Excessively showy
25 Rendered fat
26 Ragged clothing
30 Fuzz person
33 Workshops
34 Obvious toupee
36 Ewe's mate
39 Comic Caesar
40 Texaco trademark
41 Present
42 SS Alex Rodriguez
43 Aloof contempt
45 Lettering device
46 Fleet of warships



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48 Prickling sensation
50 Stevenson's Long John
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55 Me, in Paris
56 Wannabe lakes
58 Verifiable
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UNO pitchers go the distance against Bulldogs

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO baseball team faced its first North Central Conference road game this weekend against Minnesota-Duluth. The Maverick swept the Bulldogs, allowing only one run in the two games.

In game one, Troy Cloyd pitched a three-hit shutout. Cloyd sent 11 Bulldogs back to the bench in his seventh complete game of the year. Jeff Hansen and David Bodnar led the Mavs with a pair of RBIs each.

In the late game the Mavericks trailed 1-0 until the fifth inning. It was then Chad Leon blasted a two-run homer to give the UNO its only runs of the game. Nick Russell allowed just four hits in the game, striking out eight in the 2-1 victory.

UNO's record improved to 25-11 overall and 5-1 in NCC play after Saturday's sweep.

OPINION

J. Parker Adair | Editor-in-Chief

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editor@gateway.unomaha.edu | April 19, 2005

Science of tears: why do we cry?

A few weeks ago, I'm alone in my room and I'm watching a movie I rented, *The Notebook*. It's a damn good movie; not the best I've ever seen — certainly not the most interesting, but it's well-written and more importantly, it has heart. It's a great love story, in the classic sense of the phrase. No, let me put that differently ... it's the best love story I've seen in years.

It's only 40 minutes into this movie and I start crying. I just can't help it. I don't know if I related too deeply to the story being told or if I'm just a sucker for romance, but the tears were flowing.

And the end of the movie? Forget about it. I was sobbing like a baby. Here I am — a 25-year-old college kid who swears by sex, drugs and rock & roll — and you'd think I was 6-year-old after watching *Old Yeller*. Yeah, it was that bad. I was *bawling*.

Later, it had me thinking about the nature of crying. What causes it? What kind of mental state actually induces the act of crying? For that matter, what physical purpose is there for our bodies to shed water when we are overcome with sadness or joy?

I wish there was an easy answer, but there isn't. I did a little research, and it turns out that doctors and scientists don't *exactly* know why we cry from an elevated emotional state.

When we're babies, we cry because we need something. It's a form of communication in lieu of speaking, which babies can't do. If they weren't able to cry, mothers wouldn't know that they were hungry, thirsty, tired or in pain. But then again, this is a different type of crying.

There's also the kind of tears that help protect our eyes. They're called "basal" tears, and they lubricate our eyeballs to increase vision and comfort. There's another type called "reflex" tears that protect the eyes from foreign objects. These are the kind of tears you shed when you get dust in your eyes. But then again, these kinds of tears don't come from crying at all.

Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

What I'm talking about are emotional tears. The kind that trickle down your cheek when you see your ex-girlfriend with her new guy. The kind that gush out when your dying mother tells you she couldn't be more proud of any person in the whole world, and it's the last thing she ever says. Or the kind of tears that leave your body in joy, almost as if it's a release — like you're mind is overcome with such total happiness that it would

be a crime not to let the world know that you're alive and you *feel*.

These kind of tears are different. According to research, these tears contain nearly 25 percent more protein and various hormones. What does this mean? No one knows. Seriously — they don't. You'd think in the year 2005, medical science would have advanced enough to understand the biological process of crying as it's linked to the human psyche. But it remains a mystery, and to tell you the truth, I think I like it better that way.

I'm a little ashamed to admit that I actually like to cry, regardless of if out of misery or delight. It feels so primal to surrender to tears, like it's something that was designed within our genetic makeup to help us express emotion when words and actions fail.

When you think about it, seeing someone cry is much more powerful than anything that person might say or do. There is something universally understood by seeing someone in tears; it's as if pain itself is staring you in the face, or unadulterated bliss, on the flipside of that coin.

Crying can sometimes be like feeling the breath of God on your cheek.

And so I'm content in not finding an answer as to why we cry. What would it change if I were to understand? Would I cry any less, or would it diminish the purity behind those tears? Maybe, but there's no use in searching for something that doesn't exist. I seriously doubt that any biologist in a white lab coat can tell me exactly why I come to tears when I see an extraordinarily passionate kiss in a movie.

Celebrating my birthday by giving thanks

Believe it or not, the April 21, is my birthday. And to celebrate, I thought that this year, perhaps I should give thanks to a group of people.

First off, I want to say thanks for each and every one of you, my readers. Without you, all of this would be in vain. Whether you agree with me, hate my guts, or just read me for a quick laugh, it's the fact that you take time out of your busy schedules to sit down and read what I have to say. And for that, I will always be grateful.

While I'm mentioning this article, I must also thank *The Gateway* and its staff, since they are the ones responsible for what you are reading. The fact that they gave me a chance is something I will always be grateful. Well, that and putting up with me when I stop by the office.

In addition, I must also thank my competition here at *The Gateway*. I know, this is unorthodox, even for me, but you have to be thankful for competition. It's important to hear both sides, because after you hear both of them, then you can choose whom you will believe. And because of this, I say, "Thanks."

I must also thank my friends. Though they are few, they have helped me find the better qualities of myself, and have given me strength and hope I need to continue everything I do. I can never thank them enough, for they have done a lot for a schmuck like me.

While I'm at it, I also want to say thanks to my family. Their lessons and support through the tough times have made me into who I am, respectful, knowledgeable, and resourceful. For them, I am always thankful.

I would also like to thank President George W. Bush and his first-year administration. Their diligence and action has kept terrorist activities to video threats aired just before our election. And although many critics

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

are going to use this as a springboard for criticism, this is neither the time nor the place.

I also want to thank Sen. John Kerry for the courage he showed during his concession of the 2004 election. He had thousands of lawyers, ready to sue the pants off of states that were too close to call until they went his way. Instead, he called off his law buddies

and congratulated his opponent, then began work on how to unite the two parties in the aftermath of democracy in progress. Thank you, Sen. Kerry (If he reads this).

I also want to thank each and every person who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. You have or currently are being asked to do one of the toughest jobs our country has, and that is defending her and the freedoms bestowed upon each of her citizens. I am not sure how much courage it takes to do this, but I am proud of our troops and our servicemen and servicewomen. Although it's kind of tough to salute in writing, I am honored to salute each and every one of you. Thank you.

As I'm writing this, I'm currently working on getting my place ready for relatives, and with the hectic schedule of finals approaching, I can only make this one wish.

Have some fun during this hectic time.



Editorial and letter policy

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the University of Nebraska at Omaha or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Opinions in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Gateway* staff or the publications committee.

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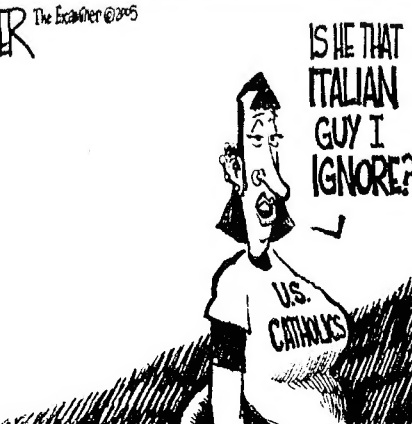
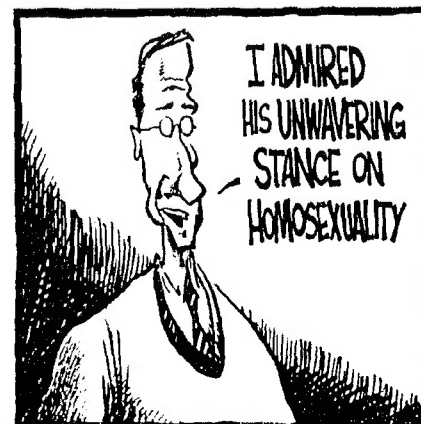
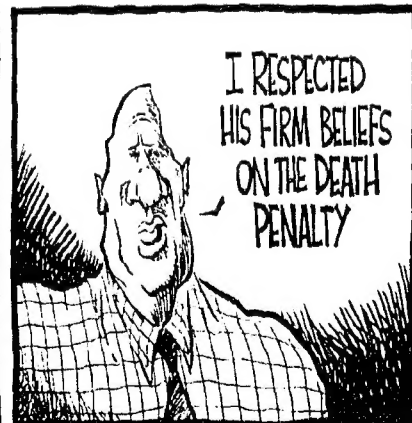
the basis of timeliness, clarity and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



The WORLD REACTS to the POPE'S DEATH



MBSC Activities

Milo Bail Student Center



Tues., April 19th

7 am Catholic Campus Ministry
8:30 am Benefits Fair
9 am Alternative Business Systems
10 am Dramatic Arts
11:30 am Stephenson Interns
1:40 pm Muslim Student Association
2:15 pm PHC Recruitment
3 pm Delta Epsilon Chi
5:30 pm Orientation
5:30 pm Sigma Kappa
5:30 pm Religion Banquet
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta
7 pm Alpha Xi Delta
8 pm Greek Endeavor
8 pm Lambda Theta Nu
8 pm Delta Sigma Theta

Wed., April 20th

8 am Non-Profit Career Fair
11 am Greek Week
11:15 am Crop
12 noon ALAS
12 noon Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
12 noon McGraw-Hill Luncheon
3:30 pm Orientation
3:30 pm Greek Life
4 pm Greek Week
6 pm Crop
7 pm Order of Omega Pageant
7:30 pm ROSAS
8 pm Delta Sigma Theta

Thurs., April 21st

8:30 am MBSC Staff Meeting

10 am Consider This . . .
10 am Dramatic Arts
10 am Greek Week
11:30 am College of Education
12 noon Impact
12 noon McGraw-Hill Luncheon
12:30 pm ILUNO Orientation Meeting
1 pm Industrial Psychology Poster Session
1:30 pm Academic Advisors
2 pm MSA
5:30 pm Delta Sigma Pi
6 pm Delta Sigma Pi
7 pm Student Government
8 pm Delta Sigma Theta

Fri., April 22nd

8 am Ambassador Interviews
10 am IS&T Faculty & Staff Meeting
11 am Schrager Scholarship
11 am ILUNO Closing Ceremony
11:30 am Interfraternity Council
11:45 am First Year Experience
12 noon AA
12 noon Student Leadership Council
12 noon ATEP
1 pm First Year Experience
2 pm Designing Effective Writing Assignments
3 pm Muslim Student Association
5 pm Theta Chi
6 pm Greek Week Banquet
6:30 pm The Rock
6:30 pm Christ on Campus
7:30 pm The Edge/Focus
8 pm Delta Sigma Theta

Sat., April 23rd

8 am Organization Academy
8:30 am Orientation
8:30 am Greek Life
10 am Delta Sigma Theta
7 pm North West High School

Sun., April 24th

2 pm Chi Omega
2 pm Zeta Tau Alpha
3 pm Delta Sigma Theta
4 pm Sigma Kappa
5 pm Lambda Chi Alpha
5 pm Pi Kappa Alpha
5 pm Sigma Kappa
5 pm Aviation Honor's Convocation
6 pm Student Gaming Organization
6 pm Sigma Lambda Beta
6:30 pm Theta Chi
7 pm Lambda Chi Alpha
7:30 pm Zeta Phi Beta

Mon., April 25th

10 am UNO Communication Week
11 am Teaching American History
11:30 am Council of Chairs
12 noon The Rock
12 noon AA
12 noon Master Success
12 noon The Grove Meditation
12 noon African American Organization
12 noon ILUNO
12 noon Jazz on the Plaza

3 pm Music Department
3 pm Vector Marketing
4:30 pm Panhellenic
5 pm Chi Omega
5 pm Maverick Investment Club
7:30 pm Christian Student Fellowship
8 pm College Democrats
8:30 pm Circle K

Tues., April 26th

7 am Catholic Campus Ministry
10 am Dramatic Arts
11 am Communications
11 am Job Registration Clinic
11:30 am Stephenson Interns
11:30 am Network for disAbled Students
11:30 am Sociology Sr. Thesis Projects
12 noon Jazz on the Plaza
1 pm Southwestern Company
1 pm Education Policy & Advisory Committee
1:40 pm Muslim Student Association
2 pm Service Learning
2:15 pm PHC Recruitment
3 pm Delta Epsilon Chi
3 pm Vector Marketing
5:30 pm Sigma Kappa
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta
6 pm Faculty Women's Club
6 pm Golden Key Reception
7 pm Alpha Xi Delta
8 pm Greek Endeavor
8 pm Lambda Theta Nu

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Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

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